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# **INVESTIGATION**

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Memorandum

TO

ACTING DIRECTOR. FBI

DATE: 10/27/72

FROM

SAC, MOBILE (100-2651)(P)

SUBJECT:

OA

FREEDOM QUILTING BEE,

RT. 1, BOX 72, ALBERTA, ALA.,

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE EDUCATIONAL

FUND, INC. (SCEF)

IS - C

ISA 1950

(00: MOBILE)

A confidential source of the Mobile Division, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that the Freedom Quilting Bee, a cooperative clothing venture composed of Negro women from the Boykin and Alberta, Ala., areas, has been receiving literature from BENITO LOREZA RERNANDEZ, Apartedo 6130, La Habana, Cuba. Source advised literature obtained from this source was a magazine entitled, "Tri Continental," which was edited in Havana, Cuba. source also advised that a fund has been utilized by the Quilting Bee known as the Tazzie or Taize Travelers Fund, and this fund is used to send Quilting Bee members to Tazzie or Taize, France. Source advised that she is of the opinion that the meetings in France were of a discussion type with people from all over the world meeting there to discuss Source advised that members of the Quilting Bee that she knows of who have been to France within the last two summers are:

ESSIE MAE YOUNG MINNIE MC MILLAN WILLIAMS, former member of Student National Coordinating Committee and Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and OLLIE MAE SQUARE,

MEMBER OF SULFET CRUMINERTION

all of the Boykin and Alberta REC-9, area.

The Freedom duilting Bee seems to be the brainchild of an Episcopal priest, MALCOLM, or FRANCIS, X. WALTERS, white male,

2 - Bureau 2 - Birmingham

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MO 100-2651

who is presently in the Tuscaloosa, Ala., area. WALTERS has been associated with the Selma Inter-Religious Project, supposedly being run from Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

HEAD OF Subject Organization

Mrs. ESTELLE WITHERSPOON of Alberta, Alabama, is described in the DuPont Magazine on pages 10, 11 and 12, this magazine being dated January-February, 1970, as being the head of the Quilting Bee. According to this article, the Freedom Quilting Bee has become internationally known for its quilts.

### LEADS

#### FBI HQ

The Bureau is requested to advise the Mobile Division of any pertinent information it may have regarding the Tri-Continental Magazine from Havana, Cuba, as well as the Tazzie or Taize Travelers Fund of Tazzie or Taize, France.

### BIRMINGHAM

with any information pertinent to this investigation regarding Father FRANCIS X. WALTERS, or MALCOLM X. WALTERS.

## MOBILE

AT ALBERTA, ALABAMA. Will maintain contact with appropriate sources regarding any other literature received by the Freedom Quilting Bee.

Will obtain further background information on individuals associated with the Freedom Quilting Bee for any possible subversive connections.

MO 100-2651

## NONSYMBOL SOURCE ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Source referred to MOlet of 10/26/72, is Mrs. D. L. SHIELDS, Clerk, Post Office, Alberta, Alabama.

NONSYMBOL SOURCE ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

This page is not to be disseminated to any Resident Agency.

SAC, Mobile (100-2651)

11/22/72

REC- 139

Acting Director, FBI (100-474211)

1 - Mr. W.O. Cregar (R.A. Mullins)

FREEDOM QUILTING BEE IS - C

1 - Mr. P.C. Mogen

ReMolet dated 10/27/72.

Address of subject organization and Southern Conference Educational Fund dropped from the title.

Bureau files fail to disclose any identifiable information concerning Tazzie or Taize Travelers Fund, Malcolm or Francis X. Walters, or the Freedom Quilting Bee. Concerning "Tricontinental," this magazine is published by the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, with headquarters in Havana, Cuba. It is widely circulated throughout the world in several languages and follows a pro-Cuban Marxist-Leninist line. espouses the Third World guerrilla movement.

From review of referenced letter it does not appear that captioned organization warrants further attention. Conduct no further investigation.

2 - Birmingham

PCM:jvl

NOTE:

From available information it does not appear Freedom Quilting Bee warrants investigative attention. Above instructions felt necessary.

Bishop \_ MAILED 10 Cleveland \_ Conrad Dalbey NOV 2 1 1972 Gebhardt\_ Jenkins \_ Marshall 1 -- - FBI Miller, E.S.\_ Purvis \_

Tele. Room 1 Mr. Armstrong\_

Sovars . Walters .

Ms. Herwig \_\_\_

Mrs. Neenan \_\_\_

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